

# Fifth Anniversary of the African Meeting House Rededication



October 25, 1992  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

African Meeting House 8 Smith Court Boston MA

nineteen hundred and eighty-seven to nineteen hundred and ninety-two

**Fifth Anniversary of the African Meeting House Rededication**  
**October 25, 1992** **3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

**GREETINGS & REMARKS**

Leslie Harris, Chairman of the Board/MAAH

Monica Fairbairn  
Executive Director/MAAH

Gene Grant  
Board Member/H&H Society

**Handel & Haydn Society**

*the performers*

Marilyn Bulli, soprano

Pamela Dillard, mezzo-soprano

Bruce Lancaster, tenor

Jeffrey Stevens, bass

Rebecca Plummer, piano

*the music*

Georg F. Handel - "Hallelujah Chorus" from the Messiah

Donald Sur - "What Was Our Condition" Chorus from Slavery Documents

Benjamin Britten - "Old Joe Has Gone Fishing" chorus from Peter Grimes

African American Spiritual - "Didn't It Rain" with audience

Founded in 1815, H&H shares with the Meeting House a history of cultural importance, and is the oldest continuously performing arts institution in the country. H&H is a premier chorus and period instrument orchestra under the artistic direction of Christopher Hogwood, and has become a leader in "Historically Informed Performance," performing Baroque and Classical music on the instruments and with the techniques of the period. H&H has also achieved widespread acclaim through its recordings on the London/L'Oiseau-Lyre label and performances throughout the United States. Locally, H&H performs two concert series at Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, and brings the joy of classical music to 6,000 students in 40 schools across Massachusetts through its Education Program.

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

**Keynote Address**

**The Honorable Kenneth Reeves,  
Mayor of the City of Cambridge**

Sworn in as the first African American Mayor of the City of Cambridge, January 6, 1992, Kenneth Reeves has been a stalwart and active supporter of issues and organizations which impact African communities locally, nationally, and internationally. He founded both Concerned Black Men and the WEB DuBois Institute in Cambridge. As a former member of the Museum of Afro American History Board of Directors, Reeves was instrumental in the restoration of the African Meeting House in Boston, and acquisition of the Meeting House on Nantucket. He is a staunch advocate of minorities in the arts, particularly European classical music performance and works with the Handel & Haydn Society and Videmus.

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(10-minute intermission)  
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Selections from  
**THE VOICES OF IMANI**  
under the direction of  
Professor Hubert Walters  
Student Director, Johnathan Singleton

Asst. Professor of Music at U.Mass/Boston, and Black Studies Lecturer at Boston College. Prof. Hubert Walters' work with college campus choirs dates to Harvard University in 1970. As a lecturer on Black Music in the Black Studies Department, Prof. Walters organized Harvard's Kuumbaa Singers (Kenneth Reeves is an original members) which is still in existence today. He graduated from North Carolina Central University/Durham in 1955, and was the first African American man to graduate from East Carolina University Department of Music in 1965. He arrived in Boston to continue Doctoral Studies in Musical Arts at Boston University under a Martin Luther King Fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. Prof. Walters is a Baptist Minister at Roxbury's Southern Baptist Church, a husband and a father of four.

Organized and administrated by Boston College students, the Voices of Imani are a campus choir made up of young men and women of diverse cultural backgrounds. These students come together to express themselves through gospel music. As a course requirement under the Black Studies Department, Voices of Imani students examine African American history and cultural to gain background on the origins of the gospel music idiom. Imani is a Kis-Swahili word meaning "Faith."

***Lift Every Voice & Sing***  
***(audience participatory)***

*Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.*

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.*

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